

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 SCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00
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DRAFTED BY AF/P BRUSSELL:PCM
APPROVED BY AF/P RHOLLIDAY
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O 192133Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 127690

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 19, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW. - -

Q. CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON WHAT EXACTLY THE UNITED
STATES IS SUPPLYING IN THE ZAIRE RESCUE OPERATION? FOR
EXAMPLE, ARE WE SUPPLYING THE ACTUAL AIRPLANES AND THE AIR
CREWS? AND, IF SO, WHAT DO THEY DO WHEN THEY ARRIVE
THERE AND WHERE DO THEY ARRIVE?

A. I'M SORRY, JIM, I'M REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TODAY TO
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BE VERY HELPFUL TO YOU ON THE QUESTION OF THE OPERATIONS
IN ZAIRE. THE WHITE HOUSE IS GOING TO HANDLE THE BRUNT
OF PUTTING OUT INFORMATION ON THAT PARTICULAR OPERATION.

Q. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THIS MORNING THAT
IN COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS
PROVIDED THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT." COULD YOU ADDRESS THAT?

A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT, BUT I REALLY AM NOT GOING TO BE
IN A POSITION TO GO INTO THE NUMBERS AND EXACTLY WHAT WE
ARE DOING. BUT, YES, WE ARE SUPPLYING AIR TRANSPORT FOR
PARTS OF THE OPERATION. LET ME SAY THAT NEW INFORMATION
-- AT LEAST, THAT WE'RE WILLING TO SAY TODAY -- IS THAT
IT IS NOW OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INSURGENTS IN
SHABA PROVINCE HAVE BEEN TRAINED RECENTLY BY CUBANS IN
ANGOLA AND THAT THEY ARE EMPLOYING SOVIET WEAPONS. BUT
I AM STILL IN THE POSITION OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONFIRM
FOR YOU THAT THERE ARE ACTUALLY CUBAN NATIONALS INSIDE
ZAIRE.

Q. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY
CUBANS IN ANGOLA?

A. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO THE WAY IN WHICH
WE FOUND THAT OUT.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES GET ANY ASSURANCES IN CUBA

ABOUT THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT THROUGH OUR LIAISON OFFICE
THERE OR OUR CONTACTS?

A. I CAN CONFIRM FOR YOU THAT FIDEL CASTRO DID SEE THE
CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES INTEREST SECTION IN HAVANA,
MR. LYLE LANE; BUT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO
THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED DURING THOSE DIPLOMA-
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Q. EXCUSE ME. YOU SAID YOU ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO
CONFIRM THAT THE INSURGENTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TRAINED
BY THE CUBANS. WHEN DID YOU COME INTO POSSESSION OF
THAT INFORMATION?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHEN THIS FIRST CAME TO OUR ATTENTION.
AS YOU RECALL, WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT CERTAINLY
LAST YEAR, WHEN THERE WERE HOSTILE ACTIVITIES GOING ON
IN SHABA PROVINCE, THAT THE CUBANS HAD BEEN TRAINING
THOSE PEOPLE DURING THAT INCURSION OR INVASION.
BUT WE HAVE AVOIDED SAYING UP UNTIL NOW THAT WE HAVE
ANY EVIDENCE OF RECENT CUBAN TRAINING OF THESE PEOPLE
INSIDE ANGOLA. AND THE INFORMATION FIRST CAME TO ME,
LITERALLY, ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO.

Q. WELL, THE REASON I ASKED THE QUESTION, TOM, IS AS
RECENTLY AS YESTERDAY SOME OF THE SPECIALISTS IN THIS
BUILDING WERE CATEGORICALLY DENYING THAT THE CUBANS HAD
ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, SAYING THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY
NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT. SO I'M WONDERING JUST WHEN
THAT TURNABOUT CAME.

A. I'M SORRY. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW EXACTLY WHEN
THE TURNABOUT CAME, BUT THIS THE BEST -- THE INFORMATION

THAT WE HAVE AS OF THIS MORNING.

Q. WHAT IMPLICATION DOES THE DEPARTMENT DESIRE TO BE
READ INTO THAT STATEMENT -- THAT THE CUBANS HELPED INSTI-
GATE THE INSURGENCY?

A. NO. I'M NOT IN A POSITION REALLY TO DRAW IMPLICATIONS
FOR YOU, MURREY. I THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO DRAW YOUR OWN
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IMPLICATIONS.

Q. WELL, WHAT I'D LIKE TO PURSUE HERE A BIT IS THE
FLAT ASSERTION NOW -- THAT THE KANTANGI INSURGENTS HAVE

BEEN TRAINED BY CUBANS IN ANGOLA. IS THAT INTENDED TO ESTABLISH A PREMISE FOR DOING SOMETHING ELSE?

A. I'M NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO GO INTO FOR YOU WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE DONE IN TERMS OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE IN THIS SITUATION.

Q. THE STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY SAYS THAT CASTRO TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT CUBA DID NOT PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. I'M ASSUMING THAT THAT STORY IS CORRECT.

A. YES.

Q. ARE YOU, BY YOUR STATEMENT, TRYING TO LEAVE THE IMPLICATION THAT CASTRO WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO DECEIVE THE UNITED STATES BY THAT STATEMENT AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE PUTTING OUT YOUR STATEMENT?

A. I'M NOT QUARRELING WITH THE STORY YOU REFER TO IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. I'M NOT CONFIRMING OR DENYING THAT STORY. BUT I AM STATING THE FACTS AS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THEM AS OF THIS MORNING. AND IF THERE ARE ANY CONTRADICTIONS AS BETWEEN THE INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE AND THE INFORMATION WHICH IS CONTAINED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, I MEAN I THINK THAT YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WILL HAVE TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING IN EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT CUBA HAS HAD AN INDIRECT ROLE IN THE KATANGA INVASION OF ZAIRE?

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A. WE ARE SAYING THAT THEY TRAINED THOSE WHO HAVE INVADDED ZAIRE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES CUBA -- INDIRECTLY, AT LEAST -- SUPPORTED THE INVASION OF ZAIRE?

A. I DON'T WANT TO DRAW THAT EXPLICIT AND PRECISE CONCLUSION, BUT I THINK THAT THE FACTS AS I HAVE STATED THEM -- THAT THE CUBANS IN ANGOLA HAVE BEEN MILITARILY TRAINED, THOSE WHO HAVE NOW INVADDED ANOTHER COUNTRY -- THOSE ARE THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM; AND I ASK YOU TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS THERE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE DETAILS ON THE INVASION BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, NOW THAT YOU'RE RELEASING A SPECIFIC BIT OF INFORMATION IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GIVE A BIGGER PICTURE

OF WHAT HAPPENDED, WHEN IT HAPPENED, AND SO ON.

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE A SITUATION REPORT AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON ON THE GROUND THERE, I'M SORRY.

Q. WHAT WEAPONS ARE INVOLVED?

A. I DON'T HAVE A RUNDOWN OF A LIST OF WEAPONS FOR YOU, BUT IT'S OUR INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE SOVIET-MADE.

Q. TOM, THE OTHER HALF OF YOUR STATEMENT EARLIER, WHEN YOU REVEALED THAT THE INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED, WAS THAT YOU CANNOT CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE CUBAN NATIONALS IN ZAIRE. CAN YOU TAKE THAT A STEP FURTHER, AND ON THE BASIS OF WHAT CASTRO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE SAID TO UNCLASSIFIED

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MR. LANE, SAY DEFINITELY THAT THERE ARE NOT CUBAN TROOPS?

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE ANY CUBANS IN ZAIRE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT CUBAN ADVICE TO OR CONTROL OF THE FORCES IN ZAIRE?

A. NO.

Q. TOM, DOES THE U.S. SUPPORT THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN MILITARY MOVES INTO SHABA?

A. I'M GOING TO REFER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE OPERATIONS WHICH ARE GOING ON TODAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. TOM, ARE WE IN CONTACT WITH THE CONGOLESE LIBERATION FRONT EITHER IN ZAIRE OR IN BURSSLS?

A. I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE WERE 10 OR 11 AMERICANS LEFT IN KOLWEZI. IS THAT NUMBER STILL CORRECT OR IS IT MORE NOW?

A. I THINK IT MAY BE A FEW MORE -- 14 OR 15 -- BUT I REALLY AM NOT UP TO DATE ON THAT.

Q. IS THERE ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THE AMERICANS THAT ARE BOTH IN KOLWEZI AND THOSE THAT WERE REMOVED FROM THE AREA BY TRUCK?

A. IT'S MY UNDERSTANING THAT THOSE WHO WERE EVACUATED EITHER BY TRUCK OR BY HELICOPTER ARE NOW OUTSIDE THE ZONE OF HOSTILITIES. AS TO THE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO

ARE STILL IN KOLWEZI, OBVIOUSLY THEIR GOVERNMENT IS VERY
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FOR THEIR SAFETY.

Q: IN VIEW OF YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT THE CUBAN TRAINING,
IS IT NOW STILL THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTENTION THAT ITS
ACTIVITIES IN THE ANGOLA-ZAIRE COMPLEX ARE STRICTLY AND
ABSOLUTELY LIMITED, AND WILL BE SO LIMITED TO PROVIDING
AID AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF?

A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PRO-
GRAM WITH THE ZAIRIANS. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. SO THAT IT IS ONE SET
OF CONCERNS THAT WE HAVE. WE ALSO HAVE A SECOND SET OF
CONCERNS WHICH INVOLVE THE HUMANITARIAN PLIGHT OF
AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE TRAPPED IN A REMOTE AREA WHERE
HOSTILITIES ARE OCCURRING.

Q: MY QUESTION IS BROADER THAN THAT. I AM SPECIFICALLY
DIRECTING THE QUESTION TO THE ANGOLAN-ZAIRE COMPLEX, AND
I AM ASKING IF IT IS STILL THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION,
IN VIEW OF YOUR STATEMENT, THAT THE INSURGENTS WERE
TRAINED BY CUBAN FORCES AND ARE ARMED WITH SOVIET WEAPONS,
WHETHER THE UNITED STATES' ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE
WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO PROVIDING AID AND SUPPLYING
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

A: IS YOUR QUESTION REALLY DEALING WITH WHETHER THE
QUESTION OF COVERT ACTIVITY IS UNDER REVIEW?

Q: YES.

A: LET ME TRY TO ADDRESS THAT IN THAT CONTEXT, IF I MAY,
AND THEN IF I DON'T ADDRESS THE QUESTION, MAYBE YOU CAN
ASK IT AGAIN.
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IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS A REVIEW GOING ON NOW OF VARIOUS
PIECES OF LEGISLATION, VARIOUS STATUTES, WHICH PURPORT
TO -- OR WHICH IN FACT DO RESTRICT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AND VARIOUS
TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON IN
THE PAST ABROAD. THAT REVIEW IS STILL UNDERWAY.

OBVIOUSLY WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WE BE ABLE TO HELP THOSE
WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO THIS COUNTRY, BUT, AS I SAID, THAT
REVIEW IS STILL UNDERWAY, AND I WANT TO MAKE TWO POINTS,
AND I WANT TO MAKE THEM VERY EMPHATICALLY.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL COMPLY WITH THE LAW AS WRITTEN.

THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT WE ARE COMPLYING WITH THE LAW AS IT IS WRITTEN NOW. AND MY STATEMENT JUST NOW SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN INFERENCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION

HAS DECIDED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON ANY PARTICULAR PIECE OF LEGISLATION AS TO ITS FUTURE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES ABROAD.

Q: LET ME JUST PURSUE THAT. THE LEGISLATION YOU HAVE SPECIFICALLY CITED AS AMONG THOSE PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH ARE BEING EXAMINED ARE THE CLARK AMENDMENT, AND ALSO THE AMENDMENT WHICH REFERS TO THE REQUIREMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT COVERT ACTIVITIES TO THE CONGRESS.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS EXAMINING, IT BEWILDERS THE IMAGINATION TO CONCEIVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF

WHETHER IT SHOULD ENGAGE IN COVERT ACTIVITIES.

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OTHERWISE, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE LEGISLATION?

A: THE TWO EXAMPLES WHICH I CITED YESTERDAY WERE NOT MEANT TO BE INCLUSIVE. THERE ARE OTHER STATUTES WHICH ARE ALSO BEING EXAMINED.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN THE POSITION OF GUIDING YOU THAT THE ADMINISTRATION EITHER IS OR IS NOT CONSIDERING THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY. BUT I WILL STRESS AGAIN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

WE ARE BARRED FROM CARRYING OUT SUCH ACTIVITIES BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. NO SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

Q: IS THERE ANY INITIATIVE BY THE EXECUTIVE TO TRY TO CHANGE THIS LEGISLATION?

A: WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS, WHICH, AFTER ALL, HAS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY TO EITHER KEEP THE LEGISLATION OR CHANGE THE LEGISLATION OR ABOLISH THE LEGISLATION. IT IS REALLY IN THE CONGRESS'S HANDS.

BUT WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS TO DECIDE WHAT MAKES SENSE AND WHAT DOESN'T.

Q: CAN YOU JUST SAY WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS STUDY? WAS

THERE SOME PARTICULAR EVENT?

A: I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY BACKGROUND ON THE GENESIS OF THE STUDY.

Q: ON THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, ON MAY 16TH CONGRESSMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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JOHN RHODES SAID IN THE HOUSE, "I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO

STOP WRINGING OUR HANDS OVER CUBA, TO EXERCISE THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO TAKE FORCEFUL ACTION IN OUR OWN INTERESTS AND THAT OF LATIN AMERICA."

IS THE DEPARTMENT PREPARED NOW TO CONSIDER OR TAKE ANY

NEW MEASURES INCLUDING POSSIBLY, ONE, HALTING AMERICAN TOURIST TRAVEL TO CUBA; TWO, HALTING REMITTANCES TO CUBA; THREE, HALTING CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH CUBA; AND, FOUR, CLOSING DOWN THE CUBAN MISSION IN WASHINGTON?

A: ON THAT SPECIFIC LAUNDRY LIST THAT YOU CITE, REED, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY; ING ON IT.

Q: ANY OR ALL.

A: I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO.

Q: WE ARE STILL GOING TO GO ON WRINGING OUR HANDS, IS THAT THE IDEA?

A: I AM AFRAID I WILL JUST HAVE TO LET CONGRESSMAN RHODES STAND ON HIS OWN CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY. IT IS NOT ONE I WOULD USE.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STUDY? IS IT AN INTERAGENCY STUDY? WHO IS IN CHARGE OF IT? WHEN DID IT START? CAN YOU TELL US WHAT AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED?

A: I THINK THE STUDY STARTED, AT LEAST HERE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ABOUT THREE OR FOUR DAYS AGO. THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED HERE WITH IT OBVIOUSLY AND LOGICALLY ARE

THE LAWYERS, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS AN INTER-UNCLASSIFIED

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AGENCY STUDY OR NOT.

Q: IS MR. HANSEL IN CHARGE OF THE GROUP THAT IS LOOKING INTO IT?

A: YES, IT IS THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE.

Q: TOM, AT WHOSE DIRECTION WAS THIS STUDY UNDERTAKEN?

A: I THINK IT WAS THE WHITE HOUSE. YOU COULD CONFIRM THAT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE. I AM SURE.

Q: ON THAT POINT, I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND AN EARLIER QUESTION. TO GO BACK, YOU WERE ASKED IF THE UNTIED STATES WAS SUPPORTING MILITARY MOVES OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM IN THE SHABA PROVINCE, AND YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW, DIDN'T WANT TO COMMENT, BUT EARLIER YOU SAID WE WERE SUPPLYING TRANSPORTS FOR PART OF THE ACTION.

A: I SAID THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THE SECOND QUESTION, I THINK, THAT I WAS REALLY GOING TO REFER ALL THE DETAILS OF WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THESE OPERATIONS AND WHAT OUR POLICY IS ABOUT IT, AND WHY WE ARE DOING IT, AND WHAT THE POINT OF IT IS, TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q: JUST TO TIDY UP THE RECORD HERE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SPECIFICALLY FOR A RESPONSE TO WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN CONVERSATIONS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF COVERT ACTION IN ANGOLA?

A: MURREY, I AM GOING TO FALL BACK ON THE OLD DODGE AND SAY THAT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WITH YOU.
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Q: TOM, DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION, FOLLOWING UP MURREY'S QUESTION, THAT THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, HAS BEEN DISCUSSING OVERT OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA?

A: I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE AN IMPRESSION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. PERHAPS I AM CONFUSED HERE. A DISCUSSION OF COVERT ACTIVITIES PRESENTLY GOING ON, OR THE ADVISABILITY OF COVERT ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE, OR THE ADVISABILITY OF CHANGING THE LEGISLATION WHICH PROHIBITS?

Q: WELL, MURREY COULD ASK IT BETTER SINCE IT WAS HIS QUESTION, BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS GETTING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN COVERT OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA. YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THAT.

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING -- ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT READ THE LEGISLATION, BUT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BARRED BY STATUTE FROM ENGAGING IN COVERT ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA. IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE LAW IS BEING OBSERVED.

Q: I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE THE SPECIFIC QUESTION
WHETHER THE SECRETARY OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE
DEPARTMENT DURING PRINCE SA'UD'S LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS
HERE YESTERDAY DID DISCUSS WITH HIM MATTERS INVOLVING

ANGOLA AND ERITREA.

A: YES, SIR. I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.
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Q. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THIS MORNING THAT IN COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS PROVIDED THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT." COULD YOU ADDRESS THAT?

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A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE A SITUATION REPORT AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON ON THE GROUND THERE, I'M SORRY.

Q. WHAT WEAPONS ARE INVOLVED?

A. I DON'T HAVE A RUNDOWN OF A LIST OF WEAPONS FOR YOU, BUT IT'S OUR INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE SOVIET-MADE.

Q. TOM, THE OTHER HALF OF YOUR STATEMENT EARLIER, WHEN YOU REVEALED THAT THE INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED, UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS THAT YOU CANNOT CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE CUBAN NATIONALS IN ZAIRE. CAN YOU TAKE THAT A STEP FURTHER, AND ON THE BASIS OF WHAT CASTRO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE SAID TO MR. LANE, SAY DEFINITELY THAT THERE ARE NOT CUBAN TROOPS?

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE ANY CUBANS IN ZAIRE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT CUBAN ADVICE TO OR CONTROL OF THE FORCES IN ZAIRE?

A. NO.

Q. TOM, DOES THE U.S. SUPPORT THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN MILITARY MOVES INTO SHABA?

A. I'M GOING TO REFER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE OPERATIONS WHICH ARE GOING ON TODAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. TOM, ARE WE IN CONTACT WITH THE CONGOLESE LIBERATION FRONT EITHER IN ZAIRE OR IN BURSSLS?

A. I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE WERE 10 OR 11 AMERICANS LEFT IN KOLWEZI. IS THAT NUMBER STILL CORRECT OR IS IT MORE NOW?

A. I THINK IT MAY BE A FEW MORE -- 14 OR 15 -- BUT I REALLY AM NOT UP TO DATE ON THAT.

Q. IS THERE ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THE AMERICANS THAT ARE BOTH IN KOLWEZI AND THOSE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT WERE REMOVED FROM THE AREA BY TRUCK?

A. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE WHO WERE EVACUATED EITHER BY TRUCK OR BY HELICOPTER ARE NOW OUTSIDE THE ZONE OF HOSTILITIES. AS TO THE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE STILL IN KOLWEZI, OBVIOUSLY THEIR GOVERNMENT IS VERY FOR THEIR SAFETY.

Q: IN VIEW OF YOUR STATEMENT ABOUT THE CUBAN TRAINING, IS IT NOW STILL THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTENTION THAT ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE ANGOLA-ZAIRE COMPLEX ARE STRICTLY AND ABSOLUTELY LIMITED, AND WILL BE SO LIMITED TO PROVIDING AID AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF?

A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH THE ZAIRIANS. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. SO THAT IT IS ONE SET OF CONCERNS THAT WE HAVE. WE ALSO HAVE A SECOND SET OF CONCERNS WHICH INVOLVE THE HUMANITARIAN PLIGHT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE TRAPPED IN A REMOTE AREA WHERE HOSTILITIES ARE OCCURRING.

Q: MY QUESTION IS BROADER THAN THAT. I AM SPECIFICALLY DIRECTING THE QUESTION TO THE ANGOLAN-ZAIRE COMPLEX, AND

I AM ASKING IF IT IS STILL THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION, IN VIEW OF YOUR STATEMENT, THAT THE INSURGENTS WERE TRAINED BY CUBAN FORCES AND ARE ARMED WITH SOVIET WEAPONS, WHETHER THE UNITED STATES' ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO PROVIDING AID AND SUPPLYING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

A: IS YOUR QUESTION REALLY DEALING WITH WHETHER THE QUESTION OF COVERT ACTIVITY IS UNDER REVIEW?

Q: YES.

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A: LET ME TRY TO ADDRESS THAT IN THAT CONTEXT, IF I MAY, AND THEN IF I DON'T ADDRESS THE QUESTION, MAYBE YOU CAN ASK IT AGAIN.

IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS A REVIEW GOING ON NOW OF VARIOUS PIECES OF LEGISLATION, VARIOUS STATUTES, WHICH PURPORT TO -- OR WHICH IN FACT DO RESTRICT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AND VARIOUS TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON IN THE PAST ABROAD. THAT REVIEW IS STILL UNDERWAY.

OBTAINING WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WE BE ABLE TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO THIS COUNTRY, BUT, AS I SAID, THAT REVIEW IS STILL UNDERWAY, AND I WANT TO MAKE TWO POINTS, AND I WANT TO MAKE THEM VERY EMPHATICALLY.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL COMPLY WITH THE LAW AS WRITTEN.

THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT WE ARE COMPLYING WITH THE LAW AS IT IS WRITTEN NOW. AND MY STATEMENT JUST NOW SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN INFERENCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION

HAS DECIDED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON ANY PARTICULAR PIECE OF LEGISLATION AS TO ITS FUTURE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES ABROAD.

Q: LET ME JUST PURSUE THAT. THE LEGISLATION YOU HAVE SPECIFICALLY CITED AS AMONG THOSE PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH ARE BEING EXAMINED ARE THE CLARK AMENDMENT, AND ALSO THE AMENDMENT WHICH REFERS TO THE REQUIREMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT COVERT ACTIVITIES TO THE CONGRESS.

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IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION

IS EXAMINING, IT BEWILDERS THE IMAGINATION TO CONCEIVE
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF

WHETHER IT SHOULD ENGAGE IN COVERT ACTIVITIES.

OTHERWISE, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE LEGISLATION?

A: THE TWO EXAMPLES WHICH I CITED YESTERDAY WERE NOT
MEANT TO BE INCLUSIVE. THERE ARE OTHER STATUTES WHICH
ARE ALSO BEING EXAMINED.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN THE POSITION OF GUIDING YOU THAT
THE ADMINISTRATION EITHER IS OR IS NOT CONSIDERING THIS
TYPE OF ACTIVITY. BUT I WILL STRESS AGAIN THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION WILL COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

WE ARE BARRED FROM CARRYING OUT SUCH ACTIVITIES BY THE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. NO SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL
BE CARRIED OUT.

Q: IS THERE ANY INITIATIVE BY THE EXECUTIVE TO TRY TO
CHANGE THIS LEGISLATION?

A: WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS, WHICH, AFTER
ALL, HAS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY TO EITHER KEEP THE
LEGISLATION OR CHANGE THE LEGISLATION OR ABOLISH THE
LEGISLATION. IT IS REALLY IN THE CONGRESS'S HANDS.

BUT WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS TO DECIDE WHAT
MAKES SENSE AND WHAT DOESN'T.

Q: CAN YOU JUST SAY WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS STUDY? WAS
THERE SOME PARTICULAR EVENT?

A: I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY BACKGROUND ON THE GENESIS
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OF THE STUDY.

Q: ON THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, ON MAY 16TH CONGRESSMAN
JOHN RHODES SAID IN THE HOUSE, "I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO

STOP WRINGING OUR HANDS OVER CUBA, TO EXERCISE THE MEANS
AVAILABLE TO TAKE FORCEFUL ACTION IN OUR OWN INTERESTS
AND THAT OF LATIN AMERICA."

IS THE DEPARTMENT PREPARED NOW TO CONSIDER OR TAKE ANY

NEW MEASURES INCLUDING POSSIBLY, ONE, HALTING AMERICAN
TOURIST TRAVEL TO CUBA; TWO, HALTING REMITTANCES TO CUBA;
THREE, HALTING CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH CUBA; AND, FOUR,
CLOSING DOWN THE CUBAN MISSION IN WASHINGTON?

A: ON THAT SPECIFIC LAUNDRY LIST THAT YOU CITE, REED,
I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY; ING ON IT.

Q: ANY OR ALL.

A: I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO.

Q: WE ARE STILL GOING TO GO ON WRINGING OUR HANDS, IS
THAT THE IDEA?

A: I AM AFRAID I WILL JUST HAVE TO LET CONGRESSMAN
RHODES STAND ON HIS OWN CHARACTERIZATION OF THE
ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY. IT IS NOT ONE I WOULD USE.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STUDY?
IS IT AN INTERAGENCY STUDY? WHO IS IN CHARGE OF IT? WHEN
DID IT START? CAN YOU TELL US WHAT AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED?
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A: I THINK THE STUDY STARTED, AT LEAST HERE AT THE STATE
DEPARTMENT, ABOUT THREE OR FOUR DAYS AGO. THE PEOPLE
WHO ARE INVOLVED HERE WITH IT OBVIOUSLY AND LOGICALLY ARE

THE LAWYERS, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS AN INTER-
AGENCY STUDY OR NOT.

Q: IS MR. HANSEL IN CHARGE OF THE GROUP THAT IS LOOKING
INTO IT?

A: YES, IT IS THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE.

Q: TOM, AT WHOSE DIRECTION WAS THIS STUDY UNDERTAKEN?

A: I THINK IT WAS THE WHITE HOUSE. YOU COULD CONFIRM
THAT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE. I AM SURE.

Q: ON THAT POINT, I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND AN EARLIER
QUESTION. TO GO BACK, YOU WERE ASKED IF THE UNTIED
STATES WAS SUPPORTING MILITARY MOVES OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM
IN THE SHABA PROVINCE, AND YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW,
DIDN'T WANT TO COMMENT, BUT EARLIER YOU SAID WE WERE
SUPPLYING TRANSPORTS FOR PART OF THE ACTION.

A: I SAID THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THE SECOND QUESTION, I
THINK, THAT I WAS REALLY GOING TO REFER ALL THE DETAILS
OF WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THESE OPERATIONS AND WHAT OUR
POLICY IS ABOUT IT, AND WHY WE ARE DOING IT, AND WHAT
THE POINT OF IT IS, TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q: JUST TO TIDY UP THE RECORD HERE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK
YOU SPECIFICALLY FOR A RESPONSE TO WHETHER THE STATE

DEPARTMENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN CONVERSATIONS REGARDING
THE POSSIBILITY OF COVERT ACTION IN ANGOLA?

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A: MURREY, I AM GOING TO FALL BACK ON THE OLD DODGE AND
SAY THAT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WITH YOU.

Q: TOM, DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION, FOLLOWING
UP MURREY'S QUESTION, THAT THE UNITED STATES, THE
STATE DEPARTMENT, HAS BEEN DISCUSSING OVERT OPERATIONS
IN ANGOLA?

A: I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE AN IMPRESSION ONE WAY OR THE
OTHER. PERHAPS I AM CONFUSED HERE. A DISCUSSION OF
COVERT ACTIVITIES PRESENTLY GOING ON, OR THE ADVISABILITY
OF COVERT ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE, OR THE ADVISABILITY
OF CHANGING THE LEGISLATION WHICH PROHIBITS?

Q: WELL, MURREY COULD ASK IT BETTER SINCE IT WAS HIS
QUESTION, BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS GETTING AT THE POSSIBILI-
TY OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN COVERT OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THAT.

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING -- ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT READ
THE LEGISLATION, BUT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE
UNITED STATES IS BARRED BY STATUTE FROM ENGAGING IN COVERT
ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA. IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN I AM
CONFIDENT THAT THE LAW IS BEING OBSERVED.

Q: I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE THE SPECIFIC QUESTION
WHETHER THE SECRETARY OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE
DEPARTMENT DURING PRINCE SA'UD'S LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS
HERE YESTERDAY DID DISCUSS WITH HIM MATTERS INVOLVING

ANGOLA AND ERITREA.

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A: YES, SIR. I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127690
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/P BRUSSELL:PCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0195
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805112/baaaeyrp.tel
Line Count: 970
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 357a3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 18
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2540240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 19, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, AMGT, CG
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/357a3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014